

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY**

**Subject**

Proposed Projects in Flood Plains with Defined Floodways

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**Purpose**

To identify the procedures that will be used when projects that are in conformance with other County criteria impact floodways defined on County flood plain maps.

**Background**

Adjustments to floodways may be required for the following reasons:

1. Major riverbed modification is planned in the flood plain that will change the hydraulic characteristics of the stream. This may include modification of the cross-sectional area of a portion of the stream, straightening the stream, or changing the vegetation. Examples include: bridge construction, sand mining activities, grading for golf courses, and developing riparian woodlands or other vegetation that changes flow characteristics.
2. Minor adjustment to the floodway is needed at a particular location to reflect more specific field survey information or refinements in the floodway computation. These types of adjustments normally affect only one property.
3. Conditions within a localized area have changed since the floodway was determined, or assumptions used during the original determination are no longer valid. Changes may have resulted from erosion or sedimentation during flood flows that have occurred since the flood plain map was produced, growth of vegetation that was not anticipated, etc.

**Policy**

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. Major Construction. When proposed major construction would significantly change the flood plain or floodway, plans and hydraulic computations acceptable to the Director of the Department of Public Works shall be provided to define the new configuration of the floodway and flood plain. After construction has been completed in conformance with the approved plans, the Director of the Department of Public Works will revise the flood plain and floodway maps (the costs associated with changing the maps shall be provided by the project owner).
2. Relocation of Floodway. When a property owner wishes to adjust the floodway line to provide a better floodway definition, it shall be the owner's responsibility to provide plans and hydraulic computations acceptable to the Director of the Department of Public Works. The property owner shall provide a revised floodway

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map, and where the Board of Supervisors has already adopted a floodway, take the steps necessary to have the Board adopt the new floodway map.

3. Partial Filling of the Flood Plain Fringe. The floodway was calculated assuming total fillings of the flood plain fringe. If the development only fills in a portion of the flood plain fringe, then acceptable hydraulic computations may be required to determine slope protection and affect on surrounding property.
4. Erosion and Sedimentation in Flood Plain. Hydraulic computations referred to in 1, 2 and 3 above include an analysis to determine slope protection and the sediment transport capacity of the affected reach of the river under existing and proposed conditions. Areas of erosion or sedimentation will be defined.
5. Increased Flood Flows. Increase in flood flows due to increased efficiency of floodways, reduced over-bank storage and increased runoff from urban lands shall be considered. The increased flow capacity shall be included in revised floodways.
6. Concrete or Rip Rap Facilities. When these facilities are in conformance with the County General Plan and County ordinances, design shall be in accordance with the County Design and Procedure Manual.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-09.

Board Action

4-26-78 (21)

4-28-81 (90)

12-11-84 (14)

7-26-88 (43)

12-12-89 (49)

6-5-90 (43)

8-1-90 (10)

7-14-99 (4)

08-07-02 (5)

CAO Reference

1. Department of Public Works